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C o n t e n t s

	<u>Pages</u>
Editorial.....	2 - 3.
Special Announcement.....	3.
CONTACT INTERNATIONAL: BRANCH REPORTS. No:7 - SOUTH AFRICA, by Mrs Edna Smith.....	4 - 6.
FURTHER DETAILS OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL PHENOMENA OVER BRITAIN IN 1950, by Rudy de Groote.....	7 - 8.
NOTES ON TWO TYPES OF UFOS WHICH HAVE APPEARED RECENTLY WITH UNUSUAL FREQUENCY, by D.N.Mansell.....	8 - 13.
SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE UFO FRONT, by J.B.Delair.....	14 - 20.
Advertisements.....	20.
Important Notice.....	21.
Readers' Letters.....	22 - 23.
AN ADMINISTRATIVE REQUEST, by D.N.Mansell.....	24.
MORE COINCIDENCES?, by Jenny Randles and J.B.Delair.....	24.
Book Review, and advertisements.....	25 - 26.

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Editorial.

It is probably true to say that never at any time in the history of ufology -- which properly began so far as the public was concerned in the summer of 1947 -- has there been such widespread interest in the subject of ufos or, as some persist in calling them, flying saucers or just plain saucers. On the face of things this interest might be thought to be a splendid development. Closer scrutiny of how much of that interest has manifested itself leads to a less reassuring conclusion.

Few will disagree that, due to the above-mentioned interest, never before has there been such a wealth of literature published in one form or another on the UFO theme. That might have been a wonderful positive step forward had it not been for the fact that at least 80% of that literature was the product of uninformed writers all too often jumping onto the proverbial bandwagon. In this case, the bandwagon was that of "flying saucers", UFOs, and "mystery" objects from Lord knows where.

At the glossy end of the market we have had in recent years countless books and patently flashy news-stand magazines that quite honestly don't survive even the most perfunctory scrutiny by the informed. Littered with errors, wild assumptions, and in many instances plain bad grammar, these productions have recently begun to develop a new trend -- that of using the earliest specimens of this type of literature as SOURCE material. Thus, we find several of the latest books and news-stand magazines dealing with ufos, blandly stating that Raymond Drake says, Eric von Daniken says, John Keel says, etc., etc. Such procedure is just not on. None of the writers just named, nor many others one could mention, ever did more than put forward theories. Admittedly some of them tried a little too zealously on occasion to insist that their personal viewpoints, their published hypotheses, could be the only viable or real solution to the problems they had set themselves to solve. But that is a common enough fault with many writers in practically every field, and is, perhaps, almost to be expected from time to time. It is, however, very different from the inadmissible actions of later writers who, on reading the persuasive arguments of the Drakes, von Danikens, and Keels of this world, blithely accept the original theories as proven facts on which to build new edifices of their own. This, alas, has happened all too often in recent years, with the result that bookshelves are now swamped with banal and mediocre literature on ufos masquerading as serious thought. The thought may be serious to those generating it, but it is not at all serious in its wider perspective. It becomes merely an incumbrance.

The existence of the foregoing brand of literature is undoubtedly very confusing to the newcomer to ufology, and one has enormous sympathy with them when confronted with such mountains of literary rubbish. How do they select which book to read first? How can they be sure that what they are reading is reasonable? These are very vexed questions, even for those who have been in the ufological arena for a long while.

The answer to the above is to read all the earliest published tomes first, more or less in order of publication, and proceed steadily (if one likes lots of reading) towards modern times. By such a method the reader will at least obtain an overview of the development of ufological thought as expressed in the popular literature. Unfortunately many early books have long been out of print, so newcomers to ufology may not even know of their existence. It is, therefore, fiercely incumbent on all new writers to acquaint their readership with what has gone before in the ufo field in general. How few provide such perspectives? precious few. Why?

Because too many new writers on ufos are themselves seemingly ignorant of past ufo facts or are incapable, through being blinded by their own new ideas, of viewing the evolution of ufology in proper perspective.

No better are the hordes of small-time ufo club magazines, which, in doubtless commendable efforts to inform their readers comprehensively, fill their pages with lists of star types, stellar distances from Earth, or with ufo cases from the 1950's that, although of significance, have been recorded in print on many previous occasions. Such texts flood the ufo scene with needless material. Any responsible ufologist wanting to know about stellar distances or the classification of stars, for example, or about the more significant early ufo sightings, will go to their nearest reference library (normally adjuncts of most lending libraries) and extract the desired data. Such information will be located in authoritative tomes authored by practising professionals or accredited experts. To reprint such extracted data in ufo magazines is no guarantee that such versions are error-free. Certainly such literature is not authoritative. Indeed, one often receives the impression that many magazines are produced by youngsters discovering this information for themselves for the first time and who, as the data is apparently red-hot news to them, imagine that nobody else is aware of it either; due to which they then reproduce (frequently with errors) the relevant data on the pages of their particular magazines. So what a waste of time, space, money (printing costs), and effort. Worse, the details are unneeded when an abundance of good reference works are available in almost any public library.

Magazines are important channels for disseminating new facts and ideas. One is not denigrating magazines here; but one is critical of the superficiality of so much currently published. It is possible to have genuine junk; then far too much recent ufo literature (books and magazines) falls into that category. If ufology is ever to rise above mediocrity, as it occasionally manages to, it really must put its public image in order; and that is hardly possible until its internal workings are put in order. The time is long overdue when a visible measure of responsibility was seen to exist at all levels of our subject. Although this presently exists, it is very uneven and sporadic. The saddening thing is that so much genuine enthusiasm for ufology exists all over the place without it being systematically channeled into a coherent whole for the benefit of all. To "Do one's own thing" may be all very well in some fields, but is absolutely no good at all in ufology. It is bad enough surmounting linguistic and national barriers without having needless sectarian ones to overcome as well. In short, therefore, ufologists at all levels (and especially those who publish in one form or another) should constantly strive to become more personally informed. Certainly they must not assume that they alone know the facts, or that others elsewhere are not capable of ascertaining them independently. After all, ufologists as a body must be among the brightest and cleverest units of society, as grappling with the ufo enigma demands that they should be so. Let us, therefore, openly demonstrate those inherent qualities and improve standards all round.

The Editor.

Special Announcement.

CONTACT INTERNATIONAL and CONTACT (UK) will be staging a special ufo conference at Cowley Parish Hall, Cowley, near Oxford, on June 2nd., at 2.45 pm. Proceedings will last until 6.00 pm. Admission will be 90p. per head, but members, on production of a valid membership card, will be admitted at the reduced rate of 70p. per head.

Speakers will include the Earl of Clancarty (Brinsley Le Poer Trench), John Sears, J. Bernard Delair, and our new international president Ruth Rees. Do not miss what will undoubtedly be a notable occasion. We look forward to seeing you there.

CONTACT INTERNATIONAL: BRANCH REPORTS.No:7 - SOUTH AFRICA.

Communicated by Mrs Edna Smith, Durban office.*

The following reports have been received by and lodged at the Durban offices of the South African branch of Contact International, and pertain to sightings of ufos made between July 6th.1977 and November 9th., 1978. The reports, which are listed chronologically, are merely summarized as to provide full details of every case would result in an excessively lengthy account. Interested parties, however, may obtain fuller information about any one of the cases listed by writing direct to the address of this office, provided a stamped addressed envelope accompanies their enquiry. Enquiries should also cite the reference number accorded each case.

Case no:770706/1.

July 6th., 1977; 17.50 hrs.
Farm near Steynsburg, (E.Cape).

Mr D.Scott-Macnab and his son watched a spherical light larger than Venus stationary in the sky, which, after a while, moved across the sky only to become stationary for approximately two minutes again. It eventually shot away and disappeared from view.

This phenomenon has not been satisfactorily explained to date.

Source: Contact (S.Africa) files.

Case no:771114/1.

November 14th., 1977; time unnoted but during the day.
Warner Beach on the south coast of Natal.

Mr and Mrs Vanbelkum saw a round, orange, ball-shaped object moving in the sky slowly with the wind, from their vantage point on Warner Beach.

Very probably a balloon or flare, although neither of these identifications is certain.

Source: Contact (S.Africa) files.

Case no:780127/1.

January 27th., 1978; 16.30 hrs.
Apparently over Verulam, Natal.

Mr and Mrs Henwood and two passengers in their car saw, from Durban, a ball of flares and smoke descending from the sky apparently over Verulam. It resembled an aeroplane in trouble, according to the witnesses.

Subsequent checks of authorities at Louis Botha and Virginia airports revealed that no aeroplanes were missing or could have been involved with this phenomenon. It was, however, conceivably a flare from an Indian festival.

Source: Contact (S.Africa) files.

Case no:780317/1.

March 17th., 1978; about 22.00 hrs.
Along the coast of Natal, north and south of Durban.

* Contact (South Africa), 3rd Floor, Progress House, Hermitage Street, Durban.

Many observers, including amateur astronomers, watched a cluster of lights moving along the general line of the coast, south to north, and on a plane parallel to that of the Earth. To each observer the lights were visible for approximately 50 seconds.

Initially, these lights were thought to be Cosmos 992, but this satellite re-entered on the morning of that day (vide Spaceflight, 20 (8), 1978, p.314). Messrs Andrew Gray and Kenneth Harrison, who investigated this event, are inclined to rule out a fireball. The case is still being investigated.

Source: Contact (S.Africa) files.

Case no: 780513/1.

May 13th., 1978; 02.00 hours.
Oudtshoorn, Cape Province.

Three independent male witnesses sighted a large, blindingly bright, bluish-green light travelling across the sky at high speed. It has not been identified with any known phenomenon.

Source: Tribune, 14.5.1978.

Case no: 780701/1.

July 1st., 1978; 06.25 hours.
Cape Town, Cape Province.

Three witnesses, allegedly independently situated, watched an oval-shaped object having a bright yellow light in the sky. It remained stationary for approximately half an hour, after which it suddenly disappeared (?= dematerialised). It has not been identified with any known phenomenon.

Source: Burger, 17.7.1978.

Case no: 780719/1.

July 19th., 1978; 19.45 hours.
False Bay, SE of Cape Town, Cape Province.

Colonel Kempen and twelve other witnesses watched a bright egg-shaped object having a blue light on one side and a red light on the other remain motionless over False Bay for an appreciable while. Its mode of disappearance was not observed.

Coneceivably a misidentification of the planet Venus.

Source: District Mail, 21.7.1978.

Case no: 780721/1.

July 21st., 1978; time uncertain.
Edenvale Hospital, Transvaal.

Mr C. Morris of nearby Germiston, together with others, watched a flaming orb move up and down and sideways in the sky. The Johannesburg Planetarium, on being advised of the event, was unable to identify the object.

Source: The Advocate, 21.7.1978.

Case no: 780807/1.

August 7th., 1978; 21.30 hours.
Gillitts, near Durban, Natal.

The Mills family observed nothing when they all heard a low rumbling noise with a high pitched whine passing rapidly over house and property, causing buildings to vibrate, lights to dim, and the telephone to go dead.

Investigators have not satisfactorily explained this event, but suggest that an unobserved low flying aeroplane may have caused these effects. However, they concede that no known manmade aeroplane normally causes lights to dim or telephones to malfunction.

Source: Contact (S.Africa) files.

Case no: 780922/1.

September 22nd., 1978; 23.30 hours.
Johannesburg, Transvaal.

Hundreds of observers were dancing to disco music at a club, when the music suddenly stopped and a strange high-pitched voice, or voices, blared out over the speakers for some 5 seconds. At the same time newspaper offices and police stations in the city were inundated with citizen calls enquiring about a strange globe-shaped object hovering over the city.

The acoustical effects were probably not CB interruptions because of the differences in the frequencies used in this instance. The globular object has not been satisfactorily explained.

Source: Rand Daily Mail, 25.9.1978.

Case no: 781021/1.

October 21st., 1978; time uncertain, but during daylight hours.
Despatch, near Port Elizabeth, Cape Province.

Four boys, and two other independent males claim to have sighted three figures dressed in silvery clothing, gliding or floating up a hill some distance from them. Later police accompanied the boys to the sighting area, and found an area in the bush where the grass was flattened and eight regularly spaced indentations occurred in the ground (?= landing-gear marks of a ufo).

Mrs Cynthia Hind (of MUFON, Rhodesia) investigated this case, and has suggested that the figures may have been robots. A more extensive account of this sighting will be released later, elsewhere.

Source: Port Elizabeth Evening Post, 28.10.1978.

Case no: 781109/1.

November 9th., 1978 (and following evenings); times uncertain, but evenings.
Cape Town district, Cape Province.

Eleven people on six different occasions have watched an unidentified orange light moving about the sky and which, on several occasions, has stopped and remained stationary.

Source: Cape Times, 11.11.1978.

* * * * *

Additional ufo cases will be reviewed in later communiques from South Africa, and published in this journal.

"FURTHER DETAILS OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL PHENOMENA

OVER BRITAIN IN 1950"

by

Rudy de Groote*

In the Summer of 1967 Messrs Delair and Bonabot published a useful summary of the material then known relating to unexplained aerial phenomena recorded over Britain during 1950 (1). Since that date (1976), some additional pieces of this interesting and perhaps important episode in the annals of ufo activity have come to my attention. It is proper that these should be permanently recorded for co-ordination and evaluation with the material constituting the aforementioned survey; accordingly they are appended below.

The present information falls into two categories: (i) that emending previously recorded statements, and (ii) that wholly additional to the earlier statements. The emendments are dealt with first.

I: Emendments.

a: Circa April 12th; between Preston and Lancaster (Lancashire).

The newspaper "La Nation Belge" of Wednesday, April 12th., 1950, states:

"3 jeunes filles de Preston onto déclaré avoir vu, dimanche après-midi une soucoupe volante..." (3 young girls from Preston declared having seen a flying saucer on Sunday afternoon...).

So the date of this event can now be positively fixed (April 9th., 1950), and the time of the sighting narrowed-down to the afternoon.

b: 7th. June; wood near Newport (Shropshire).

The Flemish newspaper "Het Volk" of June 8th., 1950, which reported this sighting, stated that the object flew at a height of 2.000 metres, and that it was in view for 15 seconds.

There are now few reasons for believing, as remarked in the aforementioned survey, that the object "possibly landed".

II: Additional events:

a: June (early 1950's --- thus not necessarily 1950 itself); Corby new town, Northamptonshire.

Details of an hitherto overlooked event are noted in FSR Case Histories, no:16, pp.15-16.

b: Circa 26th., November; Wandsworth, London.

The newspaper "La Libre Belgique" for Sunday, November 26th., 1950, contained the following item under the heading "An iceblock falls into a garage, in a London suburb".

"A mysterious block of ice, brown in colour and about 30 cm³, has fallen from the sky through a garage roof in Wandsworth (London suburb). Scotland Yard has been informed.

It was first believed that the block had fallen from a plane, but it

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had rounded angles. Police have placed it in a refrigerator so that experts can examine it.

It weighs about 2 kg and meteorological services are very puzzled. A spokesman said that it was much too big to have been produced by a normal atmospherical phenomenon.

A little before this event two airmen flying over the Sussex coast had seen a "silver-blue disk" travelling southwards through the sky. Then, the airmen said, the strange machine "tumbled over" (il roula sur lui-meme) and disappeared into the clouds at a terrific speed.

One knows that, two weeks ago, farmers at Exmoor (Somerset) found ice-blocks in their fields weighing more than 5 kg. One of them killed a sheep in its fall".

Very probably the "silver-blue disk" mentioned above was the blue disc seen over Selsea Bill, Sussex, and recorded as item (v) in the abovementioned survey (op.cit., p.16).

Long-standing members of Contact (UK) will recall the additional details of this case provided by Michael Hervey in his article on icefalls from the sky (2), inasmuch that the garage was owned by Messrs Fisher and Stacey, and that the hole made by the ice in the garage roof was more than two feet long. The same writer also records that the icefall in Exmoor occurred on November 9th. 1950, and that three days later (Nov.12th.) a lump over 12 inches in length landed near an RAF patrolman at Baughing in Hertfordshire, while shortly afterwards further chunks of ice fell in Ardencaple Drive, Helensburgh, Dumbarton, Scotland. Only a few days before the Wandsworth event blocks of ice about a foot wide fell on Loudwater near High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire), at Vigo Village, Gravesend (Kent), and near Tooting Broadway (London). All told, at least twelve cases of falling ice from undetermined sources occurred in Britain during November and December 1950 (op.cit.)

Messrs Delair and Bonabot make the point that the known unexplained phenomena recorded in Britain during 1950 suggests that all the ingredients of a classic ufo "wave" were present and that systematic searches of contemporary newspapers (especially the provincial and local issues) would very likely considerably augment what is presently known. There can be little argument with such a conclusion. The present additions, culled from foreign (Benelux) newspapers only, suggest that such a search could be most productive.

R e f e r e n c e s

1. J.B.Delair and J.Bonabot. "A Survey of Unexplained Aerial Phenomena Over Britain in 1950", Awareness, vol.5, no:2, 1976, pp.12-18.
2. M.Hervey. "Peripheral Ufology no:2. Flying Blocks of Ice from Outer Space", Awareness, December 1971, pp.3-4, 12.

"NOTES ON TWO TYPES OF UFOS WHICH HAVE APPEARED RECENTLY WITH UNUSUAL FREQUENCY"

by
D.N.Mansell.

Two kinds of ufos --- a domed disc form and a triangular shaped type --- have recently been reported in British skies with unusual frequency. Both these kinds of ufos have been observed for many years, and there would certainly be little that was truly noteworthy about the present series of cases were it not for a number of remarkable similarities between the individual eyewitness accounts. These similarities are highlighted later in this article.

The reports themselves have been taken from Data Research's files at Wheatley, and few have been previously published. Indeed, few are known outside of the Data Research investigative team and the original witnesses. Every report presented here has been exhaustively checked with the relevant aeronautical and meteorological authorities, and no conventional explanations found for any of the objects reported. The occurrence of similar objects further afield during the same general period of time is also noted.

The domed disc cases are reviewed first.

A: Domed Disc Events.

In the early hours of one May morning in 1964 (exact date not known) the driver (anonymity requested) of a lorry was asleep in his cab, the lorry itself being parked in a little-used layby on a road in Yorkshire (exact locality withheld). At 6.30 am., just as it was beginning to get light, the driver was woken-up by a strange noise. He opened the cab window and almost immediately saw at treetop height a large domed disc descending into a nearby field. It landed an estimated 65 yards from the parked lorry, although the witness does not remember whether it rested directly on the ground, hovered a short distance above it, or stood on some form of landing apparatus. He was, in fact, more intent on noting that the object possessed large square windows that went (apparently) all round it, and that after only a very short while after it "landed" a drawbridge-like door and ramp were let down onto the ground.

A figure quickly appeared on the threshold of the door and yelled to something hidden within the object. A total of 36 similar figures then filed through the doorway, down the ramp, and formed up into three separate lines or ranks. Every figure appeared to be fair-skinned and was dressed in olive-green tunics with hoods or cowls. Each figure wore black boots and carried an outsize torch-like instrument. When turned-on, these emitted green beams.

The figures shortly afterwards spread out over the field and seemed to search it for something. As the nearest ones approached the lorry, the driver tried to start his engine, but found it completely dead. Panicking, he jumped out of the far side of the driving cab and ran across some nearby fields before hiding behind some trees. From that vantage point he watched the figures briefly examine his lorry before returning to the landed ufo. Immediately the occupants had re-entered the object it took off with a loud droning noise and slowly disappeared from view. On returning to his lorry and the field examined by the figures, the driver found a depression on the surface of the ground measuring approximately 85 feet in diameter. The engine of his lorry also worked perfectly again.

In August 1977 (date unknown), a miner returning across fields near Wigan, Lancashire, after a late shift at 3.00 am., stopped when he heard a loud droning noise in the air around him. He glanced across the field towards some trees, behind which was a bright moving light. As it moved upwards behind the trees, a huge domed disc became visible. It then moved slowly at treetop height towards the miner, who noticed that it was surrounded by coloured lights. As the object came directly over the witness, it beamed down on him a brilliant light. The

miner by this time was lying down on the ground and was very scared at the way in which events were developing. According to the witness, as soon as the light struck him he was knocked out ("like having an electric shock"). In due course, the miner work up or came to his senses, just in time to see the object slowly disappearing from view. Thereupon he quickly made his way back to the mine buildings. On glancing at his watch he realised he couldn't account for a period some three quarters of an hour in duration.

According to this percipient's estimate, the diameter of the object was approximately 85 feet. The witness desires anonymity, as indeed does Contact (UK) in view of the possibility that this is an abduction case. Investigations into the latter possibility are currently in hand.

Closely similar domed discs were seen on January 2nd., at Bexhill, Sussex, this time at 4.00 am.; and at 11.30 pm. one day in May 1978 (exact date unrecorded) in a paddock belonging to a pet farm at Weeley, in Essex. Once again, observers estimated the object as having a diameter of about 85 feet. The object at this second site slanted square windows and a drawbridge-like door, precisely similar to that observed in 1964 by the lorry driver in Yorkshire. This object also departed amid a loud droning noise. Very interestingly, this object was surprised by the owner (anonymity requested) of the pet farm, who encountered it parked in his paddock, whereupon it rapidly took off.

Slightly later in May 1978 (exact date again unrecalled by witness), a very similar domed disc, with a diameter estimated at approximately 85 feet, was observed in a playing field by a married couple one Sunday afternoon at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. Researchers will want to know that, in 1978, Sundays fell on May 7th., 14th., 21st., and 28th. In all probability the event described here occurred on one or the other of the two last dates just mentioned.

Still other similar domed discoidal objects with diameters generally estimated at around 85 feet were sighted on August 29th., 1978; at Hartlepool, Cleveland, on September 19th., at Aysworth, Nottinghamshire; on 23rd. September, near a school close by Tubney Woods, west of Cumnor, Oxfordshire; and in late September (exact date unknown) at Dartford Heath, Kent.

In nearly every instance all these objects were described by eyewitnesses as having a diameter of approximately 85 feet, as emitting loud droning noises, and of moving very slowly. Furthermore, a significantly high percentage of observers had the impression that the objects were "searching for something". In at least one case (the 1964 Yorkshire event) this type of object was manned --- by an unexpectedly large number of occupants --- and was very probably manned in the Clacton-on-Sea case.

It is to be hoped that researchers will pay special attention to domed discs of between 80 and 90 feet estimated diameter that (a) land, (b) proceed slowly, or (c) emit loud droning noises. It may be significant that this type of object appears to operate in pastoral rather than urban districts

B: Triangular shaped objects.

On November 25th., 1978, a triangular object was observed hovering at a very considerable altitude over Heathrow airport, Middlesex, and subsequently was seen again over Hounslow, in the same county. Accounts of this appearance were carried by the evening papers of that date and by the daily papers in many parts of Britain the following day. These accounts were the first (and last) intimations that the public at large had of the existence of such objects in 1978. Closely similar objects had, however, been seen shortly before, and were seen many times later.

Altogether, since the beginning of November 1978, triangular shaped ufos have been sighted in Britain at least 48 times, a concentration of these being in the Oxfordshire region. A composite impression of this type of object, based on details contained in the many reports, reveals that it is usually silvery in colour or metallic, has two very large pale yellow lights, and is always silent. A few sightings describe it as hovering, although the majority refer to its fast or very fast speed. The reported size of the object has naturally varied according to eyewitness distance from it; the smallest reported size has been that of a single pence piece held at arm's length, while the largest reported size has been that at least twice the size of a "Jumbo Jet".

Across the borders from Oxfordshire, trial flights of "Concorde" are regularly carried out from Fairford in Gloucestershire, and quite often the flight paths of "Concorde" flights takes that wonderful aircraft over western and central Oxfordshire. Checks made with Fairford flight control personnel reveal that none of the triangular objects reported could have been "Concorde" or indeed any comparable aeroplane. In short, the identity of the triangular ufo remains unknown. Below is a selection of reports describing sightings of this type of ufo.

- i) 23rd.Nov., 1978. Near Heathrow airport, Middlesex. Time: early evening.
A silvery triangular object paced a commercial airliner into the airport, before departing at very high speed. Seen by several airliner crew members.
- ii) 24th.November, 1978. Twelve miles west of Heathrow airport: time early evening.
A large silvery triangular object, with two yellow lights, paced a "Tristar" commercial airliner into the airport, being simultaneously tracked on radar. Several independently located witnesses observed the object.
- iii) 25th.November 1978. Heathrow airport, Middlesex. Time: early evening.
A bright yellowish coloured triangular object was observed hovering over the airport by numerous individuals. It suddenly shot away to the north-east, but was soon afterwards sighted moving slowly over Hounslow, Middlesex. The object was reported in the London evening papers and many daily papers of the following date.
- iv) 25th.November, 1978. Ducklington, Oxfordshire. Time: 7.45 am.
A dark coloured triangular object with pale yellow lights was seen travelling across the sky in a South to North-west direction.
- v) 28th.November, 1978. Heathrow Airport, Middlesex. Time: 7.15 am.
Personnel at Heathrow airport control facilities observed an unknown triangular object crossing the sky at great altitude from West to East.
- vi) 1st.December, 1978. Ruislip, Middlesex. Time: 7.15 am.
A silvery triangular object having yellow lights was sighted travelling across the sky on a West to East course.
- vii) 2nd.December, 1978. Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Time: 7.10 am.
A silvery triangular object was observed in the sky, moving along a South to North-west course, passing over this upper Thames Valley town.
- viii) 3rd.December, 1978. Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. Time: 7.15 am.
A triangular object of grey colour, was watched by several people moving through the sky in a West to East direction.
- ix) 3rd.December, 1978. Prestwick, Ayrshire, Scotland. Time: circa 7.00 am.
A silvery triangular object, having yellow lights, was seen crossing the

sky in a North to South direction.

- x) 3rd. December, 1978. Standlake, Oxfordshire. Time: 7.20 am.
A silver coloured triangular object, having yellow lights, was seen moving across the sky from South to North-west.
- xi) 4th. December, 1978. Kidlington, Oxfordshire. Time: 7.30 am.
A triangular object described as silvery and having two yellow lights, was reported passing over this town on a West to South-east course.
- xii) 10th. December, 1978. Near Cumnor, Oxfordshire. Time: 7.20 am.
A silvery triangular object, possessing yellow lights, swooped down very low over a young couple driving along the Oxford to Swindon road, causing extreme panic and the car to swerve off the road onto the grass verge. The witnesses later reported the object as being of vast dimensions and far bigger than a "Hercules" transport aeroplane. It remained totally silent as it moved West to East towards Abingdon and London.
- xiii) 20th. December, 1978. Yarnton, Oxfordshire. Time 7.20 am.
A silvery triangular object was seen crossing the sky from West to East. It appeared to be very high up.
- xiv) 24th. December, 1978. Newquay, Cornwall. Time: midnight.
A triangular object travelling from South to North-east, was observed by several individuals.
- xv) Carlisle, Cumbria. On December 31st., 1978, a triangular object of unknown origin was seen crossing the sky from West to East. The time was c.7.00 pm.
- xvi) 31st. December, 1978. Edinburgh, Scotland. Time: 7.02 pm.
A triangular object of greyish hue was observed passing across the sky in a West to East direction.
- xvii) Hull, Humberside. On December 31st., 1978, at 7.05 pm., a triangular object of considerable size was seen travelling on an East to North course.

The above selection of cases discloses the fact that, although many essentially similar sightings were made in (a) the Heathrow and (b) Oxford areas, others were made the length and breadth of England and Scotland and that these, too, referred to closely similar objects. As previously mentioned, none of the objects can be correlated with a known aircraft flight, and it is perfectly obvious that the objects were not balloons.

Of particular interest are the times when these objects were sighted. With very few exceptions all the observations occurred around 7.00 am. or 7.00 pm.; and the apparent interest shown in commercial aeroplanes and a motor car. The aeroplane "interest" may receive additional support when it is noted that both Edinburgh and Prestwick features large and busy airports, and that Abingdon, Ducklington, Standlake, Yarnton, and Kidlington all possess airports or lie very close to airports. Chipping Norton, Ruislip, and Cumnor, are all geographically close to airports. Is it possible, therefore, that these triangular objects were engaged in some sort of survey of Earthly air transport? It should not be overlooked that, right in the middle of October 1978 (on the 21st. to be precise), Frederick Valentich, a young Australian pilot, disappeared with his Cessna 182 near King Is., in the Bass Strait, shortly after radioing that he was being harrassed by a huge unknown object with brilliant lights, the shape of the object not itself being apparently discernible to him (v. Awareness, vol.7, no:3, 1978, pp.15-17; MUFON UFO Journal, no:129, August 1978 (but issued early 1979), pp.3-5). Was this incident connected with the apparent interest in terrestrial aeroplanes and areas

featuring airports? For those readers who may object that the Valentich affair occurred before the November/December rash of triangular objects over Britain, let the following additional cases speak for themselves.

xviii) 22nd. September, 1978. Birmingham and West Bromwich, West Midlands. Time: 8.30 pm.

A large lighted triangular shaped object was observed in the sky by many people in Birmingham. From nearby Wednesbury the object, seen by several additional witnesses, presented more of a diamond or lozenge silhouette (v. Northern UFO News, no:55, 1978, p.5).

xix) 2nd. October, 1978. Kingstanding, West Midlands. Time: 7.15 pm.

No less than seven triangular objects were sighted simultaneously in the sky over this locality by many observers (v. loc.cit., no:57, 1979, p.4.).

It may also be relevant that, before these dates, essentially similar triangular objects were seen in 1978 over various American localities, as follows:

xx) January 22nd., 1978. Over sewage-works, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Time: c.2.00 pm.

Three witnesses reported watching two triangular objects of unknown origin hovering over this site (RES Bureau Bulletin, no:29, 1978, p.5).

xxi) 20th May, 1978. Thames River, Connecticut, USA. Time: c.9.30 pm.

Six triangular objects were seen by several observers crossing the sky over this location (v. Norwich (Ct.) Bulletin, 21.5.1978; MUFON UFO Journal, no: 127, 1978, p.13).

The same six objects were also reported by observers at Norwich, Montville, and Ledyard, all in Connecticut (v. ibid.; ibid.).

There is presently no method by which these American observations can be positively correlated with the aforementioned British sightings. The actual times of the American cases are less constant, although all those from Connecticut centre around 9.30 pm. On the other hand, the Kingstanding incident (case xix above) occurred around 7.15 pm., which is more or less the same time as the sightings made at Hull, Carlisle, and Edinburgh (see p.12 supra), and the time of day when Valentich is reported to have vanished. The persistence of a high percentage of these sightings around either 7.00 am. or 7.00 pm. is curious and perhaps significant.

C: Some conclusions.

It is well known that ufos pay a great deal of attention to a wide variety of Earthly subjects. To date, however, little or no work appears to have been done on the relationships (if any) between specific types of ufo and reported ufo behavioural patterns — other than that the so-called carrier or mother-ship (cigar or cylindrical shaped) objects often release or receive smaller globular or discoidal objects. The available information is admittedly very scattered and not always properly documented. The present notes, however, suggest that in at least some cases domed-disc ufos are directly connected with some sort of biological survey and that triangular shaped ufos are associated with the surveillance of airfields and with monitoring aircraft flights. Just possibly these latter possibilities have a bearing upon the sobering Valentich disappearance (which in some quarters has been regarded as an abduction case). Studies of specific ufo types and their behaviour at particular localities should henceforth be undertaken as a potential important but hitherto under-used tool towards attaining a deeper understanding of the ufo phenomenon.

"SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE UFO FRONT"

by

J.B.Delair.

Although the now celebrated or notorious (according to how you view them) ufo photographs taken around last Christmas in New Zealand generated a great deal of general interest, argument, counter-argument, debunking and now recrimination (see end of this article), it was not in itself a particularly important ufo event. Certainly more important was the event that occurred on the night of Wednesday, March 29th., 1978, on highway 465 near Indianapolis, Indiana, USA., when, between 9.30 and 9.45 pm., two 18-wheeler semi-trucks in a caravan, together with a Ford super-cab 1978 truck, were engulfed by a tremendous beam of light from an unknown aerial source. This light was so brilliant that none of the truckers were able to see beyond the length of their own vehicle hoods. Strangely all noise seemed to stop; everything went as quiet as the proverbial grave, and, for an estimated 3 to 5 seconds, the motors of the trucks sputtered as if they were stopping. Then, like a light bulb turned off, the mystery light vanished, the motors began to operate normally, the CB radios in the cabs began to function again, and the general "road" sound associated naturally with moving vehicles returned.

None of these drivers could believe what had happened. Yet it had happened. Very soon the driver of the rear truck shouted out on his CB radio "Hey, UFO, if you have your ears on, I want to go with you". Then, almost as suddenly as before, the strange blue light returned and settled like a lampshade over the three trucks once more, this time for an estimated 15 seconds. Each truck was slowed to a speed around 10, or even 5, miles an hour, all the while jumping and jerking. Again, no noises could be heard, and each driver was encapsulated in a kind of blue limbo, since none could see through the brilliant glare or catch a glimpse of his fellow drivers.

After these two experiences, discussed by the drivers over the CB equipment, their radios were full of excited people enquiring about what had happened. Moreover, approximately 50 cars stopped across the freeway to view the phenomenon, actual witnesses totalling over 100 individuals. A middle aged woman resident in the area of this astonishing event described seeing "...a big bright blue lampshade over the three trucks". No ufo was actually visible. Only a long scout-like thing, estimated at 25 feet in length, from the bottom of which emanated the brilliant enveloping light. The light itself was estimated as spreading out to 250-300 feet overall.

Interestingly, one of the truck drivers said, when subsequently interviewed, that the battery on his vehicle took about 1½ hours to regain full charge, and that a clock in his cab, formerly noted for near perfect timing, now loses about an hour every day. Fuller accounts of this remarkable occurrence have appeared in several ufo magazines, including the MUFON UFO Journal, no:126 (May), 1978, p.3.

The above is an especially interesting case insofar as it appears to relate to the involvement of an invisible ufo, presumably of the kind monitored from time to time on radar scopes but which remain invisible to the unaided eye.

If the above supposition is anywhere near correct, then an exactly reverse situation occurred on the night of November 7th., 1978, when Antonia Pallesca of San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy, watched a huge metallic object in the sky following his boat while fishing off-shore waters. Pallesca said the object, although at least twice the size of his boat, was wholly absent from his radar. He adds that

"I was scared out of my wits and turned for home" (National Enquirer, 27.3.79).

Still further indications that normally invisible ufos may be involved in these unnerving events come from the same area of the Adriatic off Italy. For example, local fishermen from San Benedetto del Tronto and Martinsicuro have reported seeing huge columns of water spring up out of flat seas for no apparent reason, and of watching weird balls of fire in the sky as they flashed past their boats at night. On October 20th., 1978., fisherman Frederico Ricci and his son Gabriele saw one of the sudden watery eruptions, from a calm sea at a spot about three miles off shore. Frederico said: "Suddenly, about 500 feet from the boat, a very big column of water shot up with great force. It was 13 to 16 feet wide and 500 feet high" (ibid.).

No missiles have been seen entering or leaving the sea where and when these vast columns of water have occurred. But in view of Antonia Pallesca's observations, and the fact that the above and other nearby localities inhabited by fishermen who have reported similar phenomena, it would not be inconceivable that invisible ufos were infesting this particular area. Oddly, all these recent observations and events lie a short distance north of Pescara, the scene of a procession of domed and discoidal ufos photographed on an uncertain date in 1957 (v. The UFO Register, vol.6, 1975, p.48), and of a domed saucer-shaped object photographed by Bruno Ghibandi on April 27th., 1961 (loc.cit., vol.7, 1976, p.51). In this connection it is, perhaps, worth remembering that several ufos have appeared in photographs of other scenes or objects taken by photographers who claimed that no ufos were visible at the time. The possibility of invisible ufos, with the related (?) ability of ufos to materialise and dematerialise seemingly at will, runs like a tantalising thread through all these events. This writer does not insist that invisible ufos are connected with all these events or the amazing Indiana episode described on p.14 opposite, but does draw readers' attention to the possibility.

Even more mind-boggling was the event which occurred on September 20th., 1977, at Petrozavodsk in Russia. On that date, according to Nicolai Milov, a Soviet newspaperman, a "UFO hung in the night sky for at least two hours. At an altitude of 60 miles, it seemed to be more than a half mile in diameter".

"It was irregular in shape, jagged, grotesque, with many protrusions of various sizes. Some looked like poles, others like discs on a stem. The body flickered with red and yellow lights. It was also the centre of great activity as much smaller bodies appeared to dart away from it, while others seemed to approach and disappear into immense portholes".

Soviet physicist Vladimir Azhazha stated: "In my view it was indeed...from outer space. Its appearance seems to indicate that an extraterrestrial civilization is in the final stage prior to direct communication with earth".

"Exciting new information has been seeping through from Petrozavodsk concerning a spaceship that visited the area recently. Something major is going on".

As informed readers will perhaps know, this object beamed down rays of light on the Russian city which melted holes in window panes, and burnt holes in pavement surfaces. Fortunately nobody appears to have been injured, but the effects were, to say the least, alarming, whereby the citizens of Petrozavodsk have been very anxious as to what might happen in the future. One of the results of this event has been that the Soviet Academy of Science has officially asked all Soviet citizens to forward all information they may have about sightings of ufos. Aleksei Zolotov, a professional geologist, remarked "The academy is calling for help. The matter must be urgent".

This high-level request resulted from a series of spectacular sightings over Petrozavodsk, on successive nights, and which included the remarkable events of 20th June 1977 just described. Some of the more recent sightings here took place in the earlier months of 1978 so that it appears as if the city has been earmarked by ufos for special attention. These and other Russian sightings of recent date led to the Academy of Sciences appeal of January 21st. this year, which appeared in the influential supplement of "Izvestia" --- the official government newspaper --- and which read as follows:

"The Academy of Sciences herewith requests citizens who have observed unusual events in the sky to report their sightings with as many details and measurements as possible".

All this has generated a great deal of speculation. One spokesman, Prof. Aleksei Zolotov, even went so far as to say that: "I do not exclude a first major landing from space in the Petrozavodsk area in 1979". (v. National Enquirer, 27.3.1979).

Obviously we shall have to wait and see whether this possibility comes to fruition.

Meanwhile other intriguing and potentially very important ufological matters occurred in the Autumn of 1978. For example, at the first Iberian Congress on ufos held in Porto, Portugal, during the first week of October, researcher Raul Berenguel informed the closing session that, on November 2nd., 1959, two ufos dropped clouds of cotton-like filaments over a southern Portuguese locality in broad daylight for four hours, and that much of the substance, which fell to ground, was afterwards collected. The filaments, according to Mr Berenguel, who claimed to have personally observed laboratory studies of the filaments for two years, proved to be "living things about four millimetres long, equipped with tentacles ending in a three pronged fork, and which took up defensive postures".

Mr Berenguel also reported that during laboratory experiments the organism reportedly put out a network of filaments several times, apparently in an attempt to get out of its glass container. (v. Melbourne Advertiser, Oct. 10th., 1978).

A fuller report of this amazing event is expected, and indeed eagerly awaited. Its ramifications, needless to point out, are immense. The fact that such an important matter has not been made public before (i.e., until October 1978) is in itself appalling. The association of aerial cotton-like matter, ufos, and, now, apparently alien organisms, is exceedingly illuminating when one recalls the two earlier cases given below as listed by this writer in 1977 (1).

At 5.30 pm. on October 14th., 1961, Mr and Mrs Burson of Sunset, Utah, USA, watched, with two other residents, two weird objects later described as "puffy daubs of cotton" pass over that locality in an easterly direction. These bodies were joined together by "long stringy stuff", and were followed at a short interval by a pair of smooth disc-shaped objects. The following day, two more "puffy" objects passed over the same locality at high speed in the same direction (2).

One evening in April 1966, Miss Susan Everett saw several white "fluffy balls" pass across the sky near Battlesbury, Wiltshire, at no great height above the ground (3).

These items lead us to various conjectures, of which the following may contain more than a grain of truth. The above mentioned "filaments" and "stringy stuff" is commonly known as "Angel Hair". It was apparently dropped from ufos fairly frequently during the late 1940's, and throughout the 1950's, after which decade reported falls of such substances became increasingly rare. Very few falls of this matter have occurred during the 1970's to Contact (UK)'s knowledge. If, as seems

indicated by the aforementioned Portuguese and Utah events, ufos were actually introducing alien organisms into terrestrial conditions, one not unreasonably assumes that this was done deliberately. At the time of the more spectacular early falls of "Angel Hair" many ufo researchers believed that the substance was some form of waste matter spewed out by ufos encumbered with the stuff. At the same time, others advocated that it was nothing more than spiders' web material. These early pontificators, while correctly identifying the biological nature of the substance, were unable to bring themselves to accept a ufological origin for it, while those who argued for a ufological source rarely if ever subscribed to the organic nature of "Angel Hair". This recent revelation at the Iberian ufo congress is thus of great importance, particularly when the distribution of the known falls of "Angel Hair" are plotted temporally. The concentration of these falls in the late 1940's and throughout the 1950's, and their subsequent rarity, possibly suggests that the falls themselves formed part of a programme of seeding or introducing a particular alien life-form into the terrestrial environment, and that in the early 1960's this programme came to an end. Such an interpretation, while not yet proven, would at least be consistent with various other facets of ufo behaviour.

Not the least important event of recent months has been the release, under law, of many official documents pertaining to ufos and ufo events by official American sources. Some of these have already been reported in the ufological literature, including the last issue of this journal (4), and will, perhaps, be familiar to some readers. It is, of course, well known that top American researchers, such as Major Donald Keyhoe and Leonard Stringfield, have repeatedly alleged that the American government was engaged in a gigantic cover-up regarding the ufo problem, so very probably there will be those who will merely nod their heads at this news and mutter "We told you so". But recognizing that such a cover-up has occurred is a very different matter from knowing how far-reaching that process may have been. That several leading investigators and others having an interest in the matter are not yet happy in this matter is illustrated by the following statements from some of these individuals.

Top NASA engineer, William Gould Jr., has stated his belief that the American government doesn't want the public to "develop a set of national jitters about something we are not in a position to do anything about".

Donald Keyhoe has also commented: "A lot of government people feel that if they came out and told the truth the public would be so angry they would blast them for the cover-up". Keyhoe is also on record as saying that the US government will continue keeping ufo facts secret, and: "It's outrageous, but the government has absolutely no intention of letting the people see all the UFO information it has. It's worse than Watergate -- it's UFOgate".

Famed, and always informed ufo celebrity, Jim Lorenzen echoes Gould's thoughts in stating: "They (the US government) don't want the public to know because it's too hard for them to handle".

Nuclear physicist, Stanton Friedman, who has investigated ufo reports for many years now, admits to having personally interviewed more than 80 former military men who sighted ufos and that very many of these revealed that numerous officially documented ufo sightings were filed with security agencies and "never made public".

Jack Acuff, head of NICAP --- one of America's oldest and most respected ufo organizations --- asserts that he has "...seen documents that are classified which government agencies are regularly getting reports on UFO sightings from all over

the world". He adds: "Information also comes through on domestic (UFO) activity to the National Security Agency (a super-secret US. intelligence agency). An inside source has confirmed to me that he has seen almost weekly messages coming concerning UFOs". (v. National Enquirer, June 4th., 1978; ibid., June 27th.)

All this concern for governmental secrecy and the with-holding of ufo information has led to a series of probes by civilian individuals into official procedures relating to ufological material, and the results have been far from reassuring. As detailed above, such governmental behaviour has generated various unfavourable comment, among them the accusation by John Schuessler, an engineer-manager for NASA's space shuttle programme. Schuessler avers that: "The United States government is engaged in a longterm cover-up of a lot of vitally important information on UFOs". (ibid., June 27th., 1978).

Thus, while there is a near unanimous opinion among informed ufo researchers, extending to those in Britain and other parts of Europe, that deliberate governmental secrecy operates, and has for long operated, with regard to the ufo phenomenon, serious doubts are still entertained as to how much of the total data now known to be held by secret government departments around the world will actually be released to interested bodies. The release of a few relatively innocuous or comparatively unimportant cases (even if they run into several hundred such items) is no guarantee that additional material (possibly of massive proportions) may yet be with-held.

The fact that the Russian Academy of Sciences has now openly asked Soviet citizens to submit all ufo sightings and related information is at least a sign that officialdom everywhere is under pressure of one kind or another to be seen to be doing something about the ufo enigma. It is thus all the more enigmatic and frustrating that the British government declines to involve itself openly in ufo investigations, despite repeated pleas from various quarters (including the House of Lords) that it do so. The suspicion remains that it is, and has for long been, engaged in covert ufo research. Indeed, it is difficult to see how so well organised a government as that of Britain is not undertaking such studies, especially in view of its close political and military ties with the USA, Canadian, French, and other leading governments. In that connection it is most interesting to find that the official Chinese communist newspaper --- the Jenmin Jih Pao --- published the first article on ufos in a Chinese newspaper on November 14th., 1978, entitled "UFO, the unsolved mystery". The article states categorically that ufo studies are conducted earnestly in both Japan and the USA, and intimates that China may be, or shortly hopes to, conduct its own studies. This Chinese article, by the way, contains several hitherto unknown (from the West's point of view) Chinese ufo sightings (v. The Mainichi Shinbun (Tokyo), 15. 11.1978).

The activities of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, headquartered at P.O.Box 4743, Arlington, Virginia 22204, USA, which is bringing a lawsuit against the CIA for with-holding ufo information, and which is now laying the groundwork for a lawsuit against the US Air Force, will inevitably be followed with particular interest. The fact that this organization successfully prized loose a significant amount of CIA ufo material in 1978 was indeed a milestone in ufological history.

While perhaps not a milestone in its own right, the incredible car levitation case involving two Chilean rally drivers near Pedro Luro in Bahia Blanca state, Argentina, on September 22nd., was still a major development meriting mention here. Briefly, drivers Carlos Ramirez and Angel Moya, who were participating in a motor rally, being at that stage among the stragglers, encountered a brilliant

light which approached them from the rear, caused their lights and engine to fail, and which by some means lifted their vehicle off the road. Neither driver was able to make any movements whilst engulfed in this bubble of light. The car was carried through the air for some 15 kilometres and then deposited gently by the side of the road. On examining the petrol tank of their vehicle Ramirez discovered it to be almost empty, even though it had had nearly 400 litres of petrol in it when it encountered the ufo. Exceedingly shocked, the two drivers insisted on having a policeman in their car while they completed their drive to Bahia Blanca. The route they were following lay between the cities of Comodoro Rivadavia and Bahia Blanca.

Very interestingly, the mystery light was described being a brilliant mass of egg-like points packed closely together (v. Cronica (Buenos Aires), 24.9.1978; ibid., 25.9.1978), which is closely similar to the unknown luminous phenomenon sighted over Sheldon, near Birmingham, West Midlands, England, at 8.30pm. the same day. And at the same time, over nearby Great Barr (Birmingham), a triangular object of unknown origin was observed by several individuals, as also by others at West Bromwich, and a diamond or lozenge shaped object was seen over Wednesbury in the same district (v. D.N. Mansell earlier in this issue; Northern UFO News, no:55, 1978, p.5.). Such similarities between far-sundered events occurring on identical dates and seemingly connected with other dove-tailing ufo activities cannot be ignored.

Nor should one overlook the fact that, also in September 1978 (exact date un-noted) Alejandro Hernandez and Robinson Hernandez were lifted up inside their car in the SW. sector of Santiago, Chile, after encountering a very low altitude "strange engine". During this period of suspension these drivers claim to have had conversations with 5 or 6 alien entities. As with the Argentinian case above, the car was redeposited on the ground safely and both drivers suffered great shock (v. La Nacion (Buenos Aires), and Las Ultimas Noticias, both dated 27.9.1978). Further information concerning this incident is awaited with much interest.

Finally, turning full circle, we return to the now globally known New Zealand ufo photographs mentioned at the beginning of this article. As generally known, these have given rise to much discussion and explanation, of which the latter has ranged from the planet Jupiter, to ice crystals, temperature inversions, and the lights of Japanese squid fishermen (see various Australasian newspapers published in January and February 1979). The actual film of the mystery object was flown to the United States in January, where it was examined by various experts, including 20 of America's top physicists. In Britain, Sir Bernard Lovell of Jodrell Bank, identified the "ufo" as a burned out meteorite. Now the findings of the American physicists have been released. They are given below.

UFO man hits at Lovell

THE world's most respected authority on UFO's accused Britain's top astronomer, Sir Bernard Lovell, of stupidity yesterday.

Dr Allen Hynek, president of America's Centre for UFO Studies, said it was ridiculous for Jodrell Bank director Sir Bernard to suggest that a UFO filmed over New Zealand last Christmas was nothing more than a burned-out meteorite.

The UFO, tracked on radar and captured on film by Australian TV, has been studied by 20 of America's top physicists and astronomers.

Yesterday they said that the film was the first verified of an un-

identified flying object.

'We have a bona fide UFO' said Dr Hynek in New York.



Sir Bernard . . . and the UFO he 'shot down'

These few lines are necessarily selective, and cover only a few of the numerous ufo events of recent months that can be regarded as truly significant. Certainly the past year has witnessed some major developments in the ufo field. Whether these will constitute an isolated peak of events when viewed historically, or whether they are a prelude to still greater things to come nobody, of course, can presently say. Indeed, the only positive conclusion possible is that, a year from now, the situation will inevitably be very different. Whatever it is, we look forward to it.

R e f e r e n c e s

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3. A.Shuttlewood. "The Warminster Mystery", 1967, p.151.
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* * * * *

The leading guest speaker will be the astronomer Dr J. ALLEN HYNEK, one of the world's foremost ufologists and director of the Centre for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, USA. Other leading ufologists from Europe have been invited while UK speakers are to include J. Bernard Delair (editor of "Awareness") and Norman Oliver (editor of BUFORA Journal).

The programme is likely to include a documentary film on UFOs, special slide presentations, an optional visit to the London Planetarium, and approximately eight research papers on problems connected with the UFO phenomenon. A special exhibition will be produced by Contact International (UK), and there will be a bookstall located in the foyer of the two congress suites.

During the congress, a working party will try to agree common standards of terminology, classifications, data processing and software. This event, therefore, will be unique by virtue of its size and its international research objectives.

Most British ufologists will recall that BUFORA staged two highly successful ufo conferences (Stoke-on-Trent: 1975, and Birmingham: 1976) and an excellent congress (Nottingham: 1978) in the past and are eminently well qualified to hold the present one. The forthcoming gathering will unquestionably be one that no self-respecting ufologist can afford to miss.

PACKAGE DEAL:

An attractive package offer has been worked out which will include Rail travel, Hotel costs, and Admission to all the Congress sessions. It provides substantial savings. Special arrangements are also available for delegates coming from abroad, and all intending to attend the Congress should take advantage of these. For full details of these and your application form, please write direct to:-

Colin Rillstone,
UFO Congress Secretariat,
7 Stratford Place,
London, W1A 4YU, England.

READER'S LETTERS.

(Editorial: rather surprisingly comparatively few letters have been received received since the last issue of "Awareness" was published, although a quite phenomenal number of press clippings have arrived from thoughtful members during the same period. Eddie Cox, our archivist, desires to thank all these kind individuals for these contributions through this page. Although rather swamped by them at present, he hopes that additional press-clippings will continue to arrive in the mail indefinitely.

Due to the above factors, just two reader's letters are reproduced, the second being a very remarkable one from a member who is only 12 years of age. We hope that other members will correspond with him and encourage his obvious interest in the ufo phenomenon).

Dear Editor,

I am writing to point out a mistake in the copy of "Awareness", Winter 1978. On page 15, the first line of the statement attributed to Prof. Hermann Oberth, in paragraph two, reads:

"In our Galaxy there are One Hundred Million Stars".

I believe this figure should be "One Hundred Thousand Million". As I am an amateur astronomer, I just couldn't let this one go, without pointing this out. I assume, of course, this is purely an error in printing, and not a mistake by Professor Oberth (heaven forbid).

Yours sincerely,

D.K.Clark (Mr.): 15.3.1979; Barmehurst, Kent.

(Ed., we are grateful to Mr Clark for pointing out this error. Consulting our source we find that the figure of One Hundred Million is indeed quoted, but as this was itself extracted from Prof. Oberth's original statement, we feel sure that Mr. Clark's revised total is entirely valid. Most astronomical textbooks dealing with stellar populations, numbers, etc., give totals comparable to Mr. Clark's).

Dear Editor,

In the "Awareness" edition, Winter of 1978/79, there was a title called "UFO surveillance of North American and Canadian Airforce and Radar Installations" by Vera Perry. It was, I thought, very interesting. So interesting was it to me that I have decided to type this letter to say that the behaviour of the UFOs was indeed very intelligent because, for instance, when the strange objects either picked up the jet fighters and interceptor helicopters and (sic) it switched off its lights and totally (sic) disappeared or it gradually picked up speed and the jets just could not get close enough to identify the craft. This is indeed very intelligent, so on (sic) some cases of the airforce bases, strange obviously intelligent visitors were found to be real when radar operators checked their radar for strange clouds and the northern lights and not some everyday ordinary phenomena of (sic) which we are all accustomed (sic) to. As you are well aware, the oceans have not been totally explored and even now scientists are just beginning to take interest in the black depths. At depths of 5,000 feet there are strange fish like creatures with lights on themselves to see where they are going, and even further down there are even more hideous fish with lights on them. Who knows what other friendly and hostile creatures man will encounter as he goes further down?

What has this to do with UFOs? Well, could some UFOs be animals which live in our upper Atmosphere? And are they able to create great lights just the way as (sic) fish do deep in the ocean? Just as squids and some species of octopus inflate themselves with water and squirt the water out and that pushes them along in the water and so they speed through the water keeping up this process when escaping from their enemys (sic). I know there is no water in the air exact that confined to clouds and water vapour, but maybe if some supposed UFOs are indeed creatures then perhaps they can inflate themselves with air until they get very big; and they loose out the air that may push them along in the sky as squids do. Especially if they are very large animals and they can inflate themselves to such an extent that, on releasing air, they easily out pace the fastest jets and helicopters. And also the jet noises which weren't jets but were made by the UFOs could be the aired being pushed out to an extent that the air being pushed would sound remarkably like a jet engine. When one of the objects (UFOs, Ed.) was looked at through binoculars it looked like a perfect sphere and appeared to be dotted with craters. The lights maybe shone through these craters. Like dolphins, if they (UFOs, Ed.) are animals, they are as I have said very intelligent and playful because they behave almost like a baby. Dolphins have the intelligence of a six year-old child. Could these (UFO, Ed.) animals be the same? Certainly if they are not animals they get points very brilliantly and are greatly controlled. And they are all interested in our Weapons, so whoever and whatever controls them, the occupants are very advanced.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Bishop: 18.3.1979.

(Ed., apart from pointing out that Nicholas appears to be arguing in two different directions at once towards the end of his letter, it is nonetheless relevant to comment how intriguing his theory is, whereby surely few readers will fail to be astonished at the calibre of his argument and ideas considering that he is but 12 years of age. Clearly Nicholas has an interest in biology and in marine biology. His application of it to ufology is interesting, to say the least.

Nicholas is not, of course, the first to suggest that ufos, or some ufos, are in reality organisms of some kind. Donald Heard proposed the idea way back in the early 1950's, and famed French ufologist Rene Fouere later explored this theme in some detail. Even more recently, articles on the same theme have appeared in several popular news-stand magazines. The idea, however, while possibly applicable to particular forms of ufo, does not appear to be a working explanation of many (the majority of) others, whereby it is unlikely that ufos will ever prove to be, in the main, organic units. Nevertheless, the propulsion analogies suggested by Nicholas are interesting in their own right, so that, while neither air nor water is perhaps utilized by ufos in flight, possibly some equivalent propulsive media could be processed in the manner suggested.

Interested readers are therefore requested to write to Nicholas at:-

42 Wychbury Road,
Quarry Bank,
West Midlands, DY5 2XX.

We are sure that he would love to hear from you:)

Don't forget to send your ideas, opinions, or complaints to this column. Only by communicating them through this channel will your views be known to others in Contact (UK).

AN ADMINISTRATIVE REQUEST

by

D.N.Mansell.

In response to appeals in earlier issues of this journal and via private correspondence, several individuals applied to become field investigators for CONTACT (UK). In due course application and examination forms were mailed to all interested parties, many of whom have since returned completed examination forms. Unfortunately some potential new field investigators who have submitted such forms have failed to append their names and address to these, so that there is presently no way of knowing which forms were filled-out by particular candidates. Would all those who have recently returned completed examination forms to Data Research headquarters (48 Crown Road, Wheatley, nr.Oxford, Oxon) kindly write to me without delay in order that, where applicable, successful candidates can be issued with identity cards and other relevant Contact (UK) documents. Until we can identify specific individuals in this matter it will not be possible to appoint those candidates who have successfully passed the examination. Your earliest co-operation in this matter will be much appreciated. Please write direct to the address just cited.

I am sure that everyone will agree that it is bad enough coping with unidentified flying objects without having the added burden of unidentified field agents.

"MORE COINCIDENCES?"

by

J.Randles and J.B.Delair.

In the Autumn 1978 issue of "Awareness" one of us (JR) noted the repetition of certain not very common names in the annals of ufology. It was then suggested that such repetitions, so often held to be mere coincidences, were possibly not to be interpreted in that manner and represented hitherto uninvestigated avenues of research linked to the well-known "selectivity" factor in ufology. Below is a further example of this kind, assembled from data accumulated by the present writers. It relates to the surname REES, not in itself a notably common name in society.

The surname of Contact International's new President is REES (Ruth).

The surname of the editor of Mapit's journal "Skywatch" is REES (David).

The surname of one of Contact (UK)'s field investigators in Essex is REES (David).

The surname of one of Data Research's fact-processing team is REES (Susan).

The surname of one of the military personnel involved with the investigation of the "green fireball" episode in south-western USA in the early 1950's was REES (Lt.Col. Doyle).

None of these individuals is knowingly related to any of the others.

Still more interesting is the fact that Susan REES's son is named David and her daughter is named Ruth. Random checks on five telephone directories for widely scattered British districts show that, while the surname REES is present in all of them, it is never common and in two cases is only just present. Yet it appears to be disproportionately embroiled in ufological matters. Why? Is, as some have claimed, the ufo phenomenon playing games with humanity, the surname REES being a prominent element in the game, or do such repetitions (odd though they may seem to us at present) represent vital clues to the phenomenon's true nature? In other words, are they important items that ufologists have until now contrived to overlook?

It seems to us sensible to explore this aspect further until its real merit can be positively established. Further examples of "repetitions" will be given later.

BOOK REVIEW

by

J.B.Delair.

SITUATION RED: THE UFO SIEGE

Leonard Stringfield.

Sphere Books Ltd., 1978.

236 pages: 95p.

In the mid 1950's Leonard Stringfield was one of the USA's most active ufologists, and the editor of a splendid (and unfortunately long defunct) magazine called ORBIT. Although not so prominent in recent decades, Stringfield has nevertheless kept up with all the more recent ufo events and has now written what is undoubtedly the best popular statement about ufos in general and the long suspected ufo cover-up in America in particular. If you want to read about the evidence for crashed and retrieved ufos, occupants preserved in secret laboratories, and other secret activities of the American security agencies, then this is the book to read. If half of it turns out to be spurious the remaining half will still represent a bombshell and combines, with several interesting photographs, five appendices, and an eminently readable literary style, to make this a valued addition on any ufologist's bookshelf. At only 95p., the Sphere Books edition is tremendous value, an assessment enhanced by the occurrence of only one spelling mistake noticed in its 236 pages of text.

Stringfield clearly accepts an extra-terrestrial origin for ufos, although recognizes that other explanations may indeed also be valid, and aims his broadsides principally at American readers (which is understandable). Do not, therefore, be dismayed at the fact that only American ufo organizations are listed as the top international bodies in the field. All in all, a most significant contribution to the literature.

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LANTERN, a quarterly journal of East Anglian oddities, edited by Ivan Bunn, 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk. One year's subscription only 85p.
This journal is recommended for the continuously interesting items, not all of a ufological nature, regularly printed in it.
